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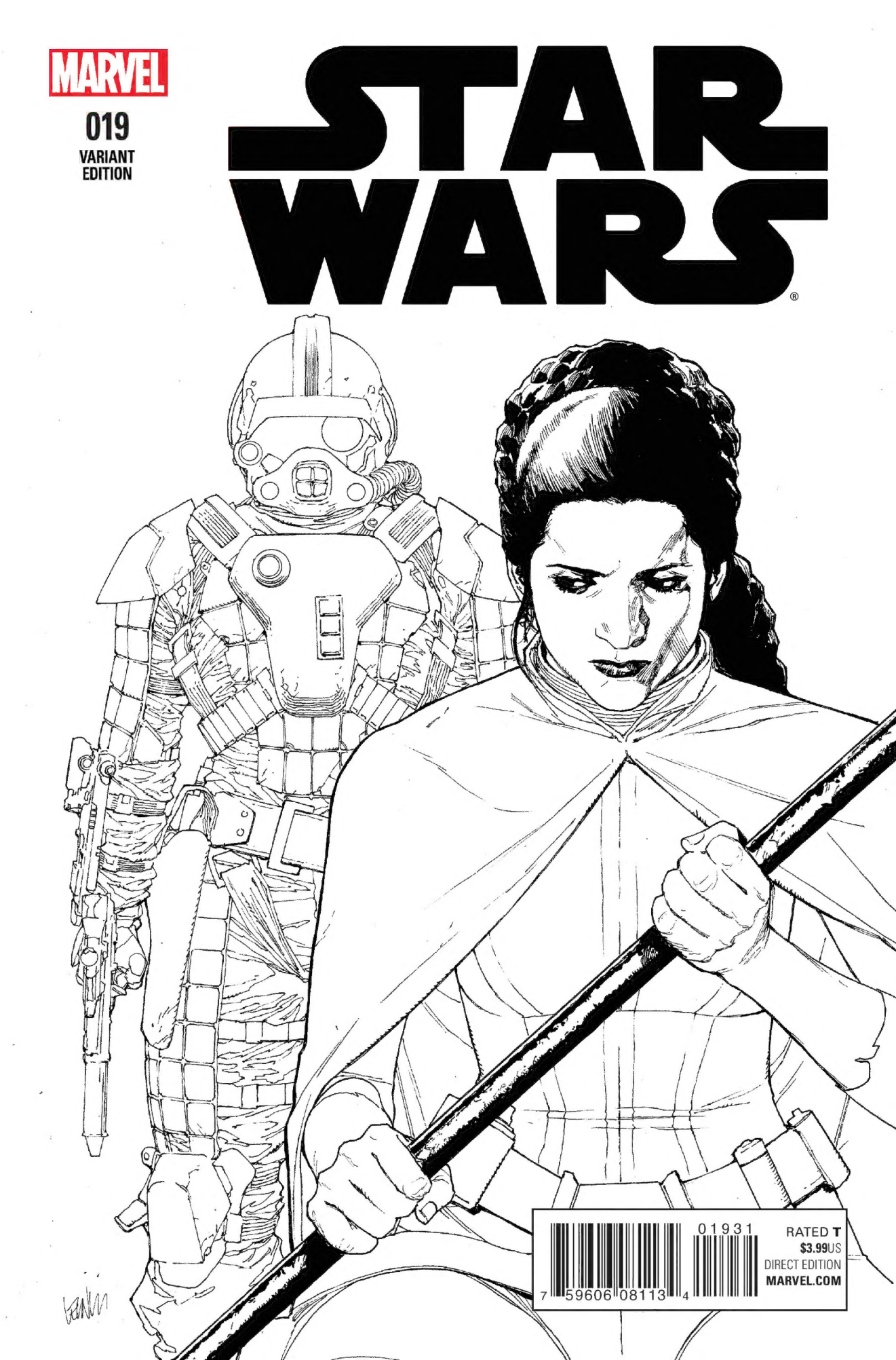
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Book IV, Part IV

REBEL JAIL

It is a time of drastic action for the Rebellion. Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, and Princess Leia have captured Darth Vader's secret ally, droid expert Dr. Aphra, in an effort to obtain Imperial information.

While the princess is securing Dr. Aphra at Sunspot Prison, a mysterious invader has seized control of the facility and begins eliminating prisoners. Cornered, Leia and Sana join forces with the doctor to release the inmates and spare them from an untimely death.

Meanwhile, Han and Luke have responded to Sana's distress call, arriving in time for the unknown attacker to reveal himself....

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SUNSPOT PRISON.

"*MOVE!* WE HAVE TO GET TO THE DOCKING BAY BEFORE HE--"

BEFORE HE *WHAT?* MAKES US ALL LOOK LIKE *FOOLS?* GUESS WE'RE TOO LATE FOR THAT.

THIS IS...WOW. HOW YOU PEOPLE AREN'T ALL *DEAD* ALREADY IS SERIOUSLY THE GREATEST MYSTERY IN THE GALAXY.

LET THEM GO. *NOW.*

I'M SORRY, PRINCESS.

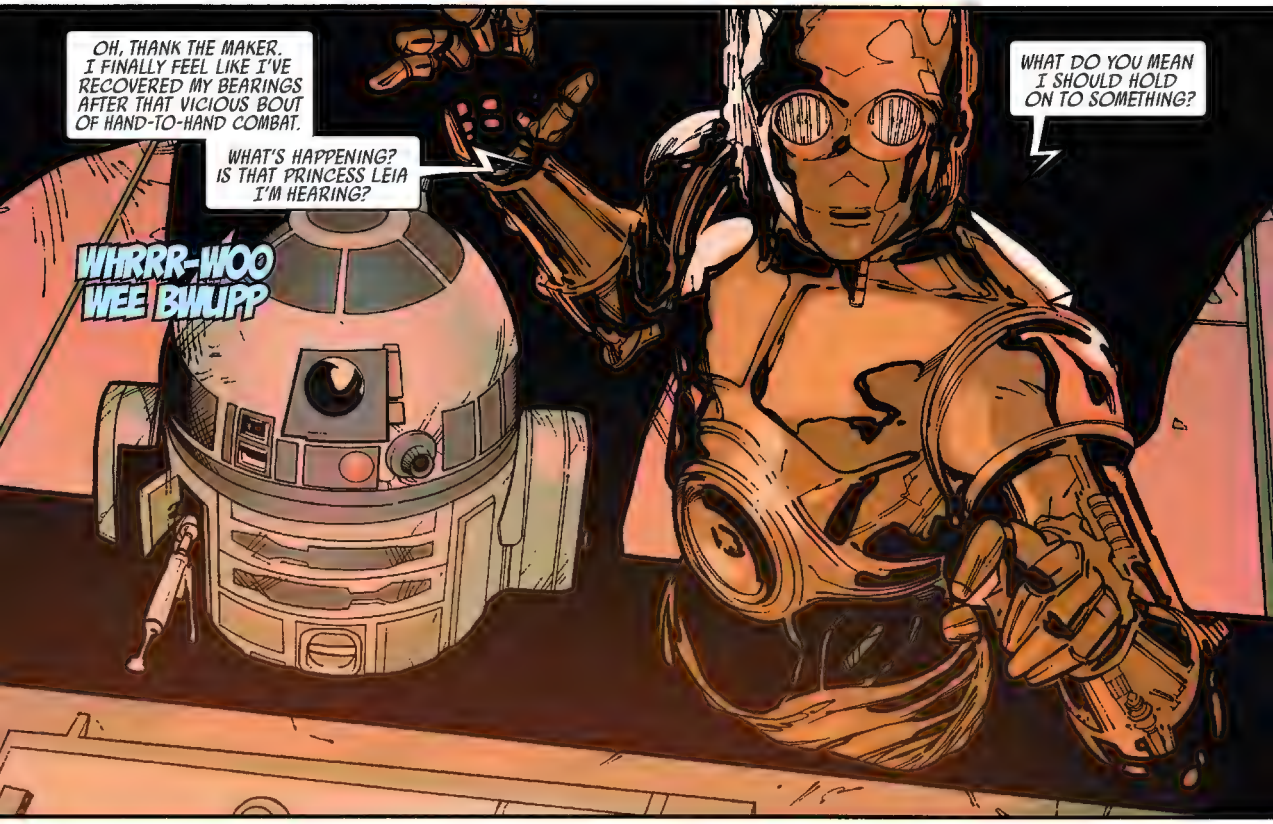
...BUT THAT ISN'T HOW THIS ENDS.

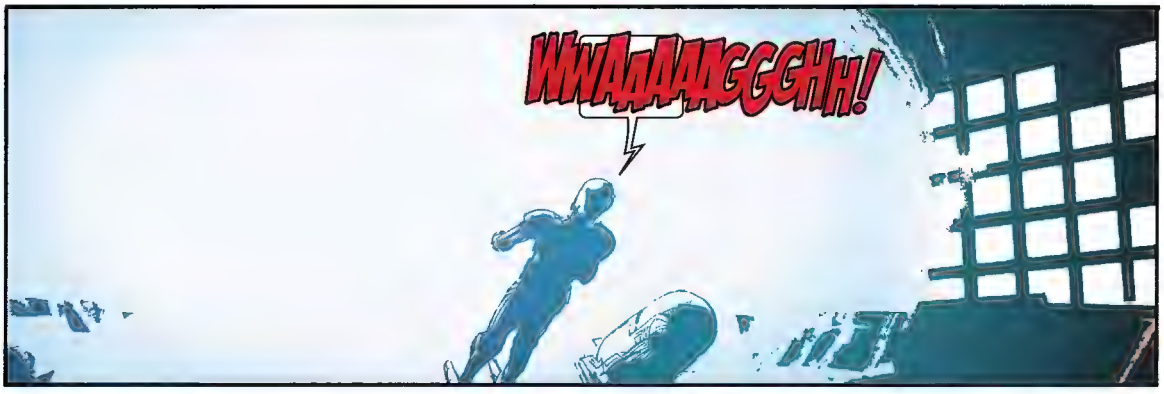
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO ACCEPT WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO SHOW YOU, PRINCESS LEIA.
I WANT YOU TO *WIN* THIS WAR, I REALLY DO. I WANT TO SEE THE EMPIRE FALL. I WANT TO GIVE YOU THE TOOLS YOU NEED FOR VICTORY.
WHETHER YOUR FRIENDS HERE BECOME *CASUALTIES* IN THAT WAR IS ENTIRELY UP TO YOU.
DON'T DO IT.
DON'T HURT THEM. LOOK, I'LL PUT MY BLASTER DOWN, AND THEN WE CAN TALK ABOUT...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO PUT IT DOWN. I WANT YOU TO *USE* IT.
I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO LEAD THE REBELLION.
YOU HAVE AN *IMPERIAL PRISONER* IN YOUR MIDST.
SHOOT HER, AND I'LL LET YOUR FRIENDS GO FREE.
WAIT, *WHAT?*

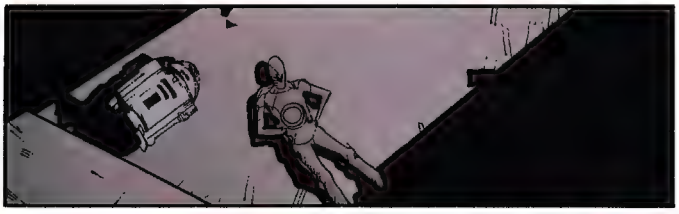
THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN, WHOEVER YOU--
YES, IT IS.
C'MON, SANA.
SORRY, APHRA. NOTHING PERSONAL.
MURDER IS ALWAYS PERSONAL, SANA! ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S *MINE!*
NO!
THIS IS NOT HAPPENING! THIS IS NOT WHO WE ARE!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PRINCESS.
NO, REALLY, THIS *IS* WHO SHE IS.
IF THIS ISN'T WHO YOU ARE, PRINCESS LEIA, THEN WE'RE DOOMED. THE ENTIRE REBELLION.
SANA, PUT DOWN THAT BLASTER!
AND YOU, *WHOEVER* YOU ARE, STOP TRYING TO--
I AM WHO *YOU* MADE ME, PRINCESS.
YOU *SENT* ME TO THEM.

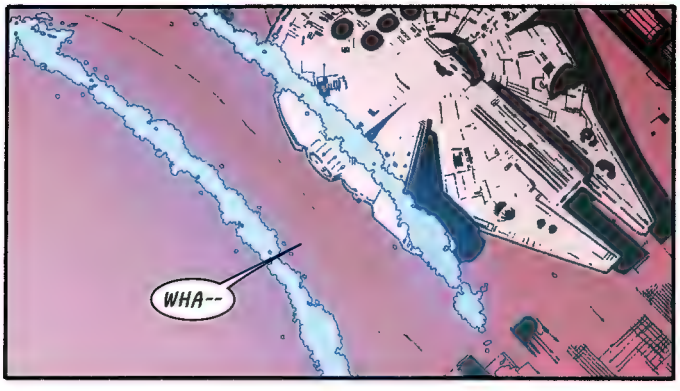
YOU CAN'T BE SURPRISED THAT I CAME BACK CHANGED.
NO. IT CAN'T...
ENEB?
ENEB RAY...?
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHO THAT IS?*
I CAN'T HEAR YOU. YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD.
*YOU ARE IF YOU READ LAST YEAR'S STAR WARS ANNUAL #1! - JORDAN D. WHITE
ENEB, WHAT...
SO YOU DO REMEMBER ME?
YOU WERE ONE OF US. THE BEST SPY WE EVER PUT IN THE FIELD.
AFTER CORUSCANT, WE LOOKED ALL OVER FOR YOU. WE THOUGHT YOU MUST HAVE DIED WITH THE OTHERS.
OH, HIS TOUCH WILL DEFINITELY KILL ME. IT'S JUST GOING TO TAKE ITS TIME.
WHOSE TOUCH?
ENEB, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU? YOU NEED TO COME HOME AND LET US HELP--

I'M NOT THE ONE WHO NEEDS HELP, PRINCESS.
YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS TO SAVE YOUR FRIENDS. AND THIS WAR.
ONE!
WAIT...ENEB, PLEASE...
TWO!
NO, SANA, DON'T YOU...
THREE!
SORRY, APHRA.
SORTA.
YOU'D KILL ME TO SAVE SOLO? REALLY?
FOUR!
I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU, ENEB. BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO FAIL MY FRIENDS.
YOU JUST DID.
FIVE.
ARTOO! NOW!


OH, THANK THE MAKER. I FINALLY FEEL LIKE I'VE RECOVERED MY BEARINGS AFTER THAT VICIOUS BOUT OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS THAT PRINCESS LEIA I'M HEARING?
WHRRR-WOO WEE BWUPP
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I SHOULD HOLD ON TO SOMETHING?


WWAAAAAGGGHH!




WHA--

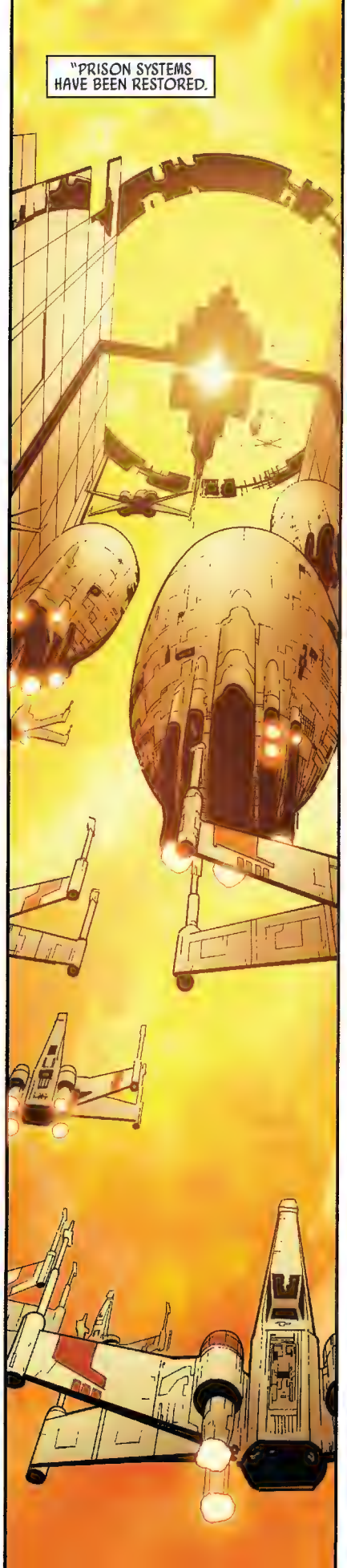
ION PULSE. YOUR TRIGGER'S DOWN, ENEB. AND SO ARE YOU.

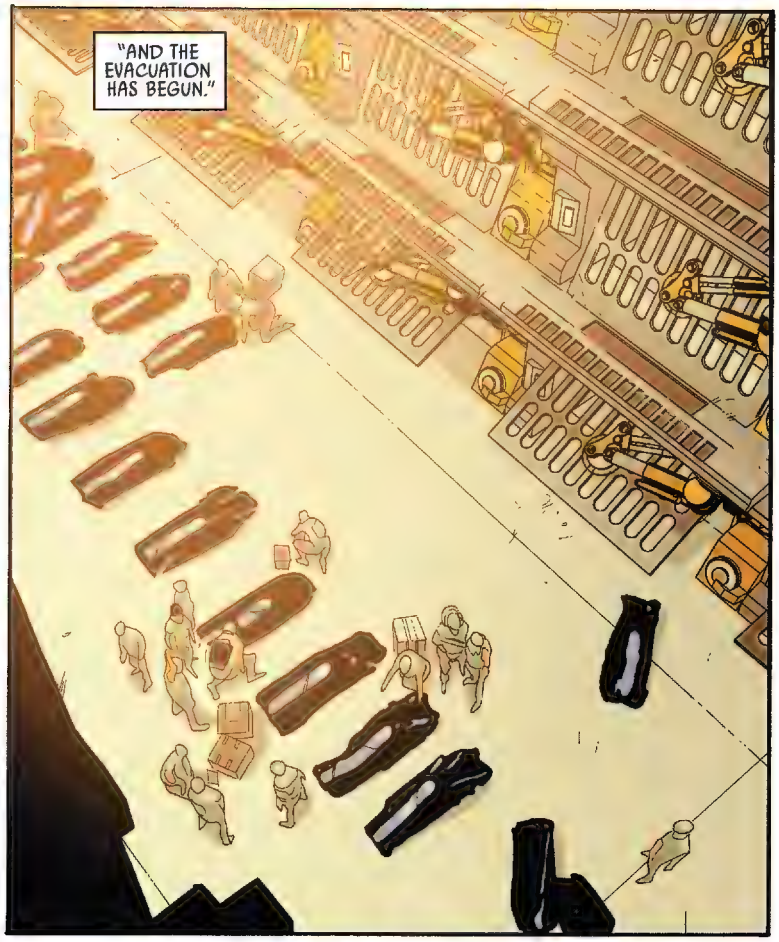
WHOA... WHAT THE...
GRAVITY'S GONE. THE WHOLE PRISON JUST SHUT DOWN. WE'LL FALL INTO THE STAR.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU'LL BE DEAD LONG BEFORE THEN.
RRRRRGGGHH!
UGHH...KID, WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU REMEMBER?
HERDING NERFS?

CLEVER. BUT CLEVER WON'T BE ENOUGH. NOT AGAINST THE EMPIRE.
UNGH!
THEN WE'LL FIND ANOTHER WAY!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT ME, PRINCESS!
I AM THE WAY!
I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE...THIS ISN'T THE FIGHT...WE SHOULD BE FIGHTING.
FUNNY HOW YOU DIDN'T SAY THAT BEFORE MY HAND WAS ON YOUR THROAT.
AND I DIDN'T WANNA FIGHT. I JUST WANT TO KILL YOU.
OKAY, OKAY, YOU WIN. I'M SORRY, SANA. I REALLY AM.
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE WAY I LEFT THINGS.
IF YOU WERE A BLASTER, I WOULD'VE KNOWN HOW TO DEAL WITH YOU. BLASTERS I KNOW. BUT PEOPLE--
AGGHK. YOU'RE STILL CHOKING ME. DID YOU HEAR WHAT I--
YOU'RE SORRY, HUH? I'LL SHOW YOU SORRY, DOC.

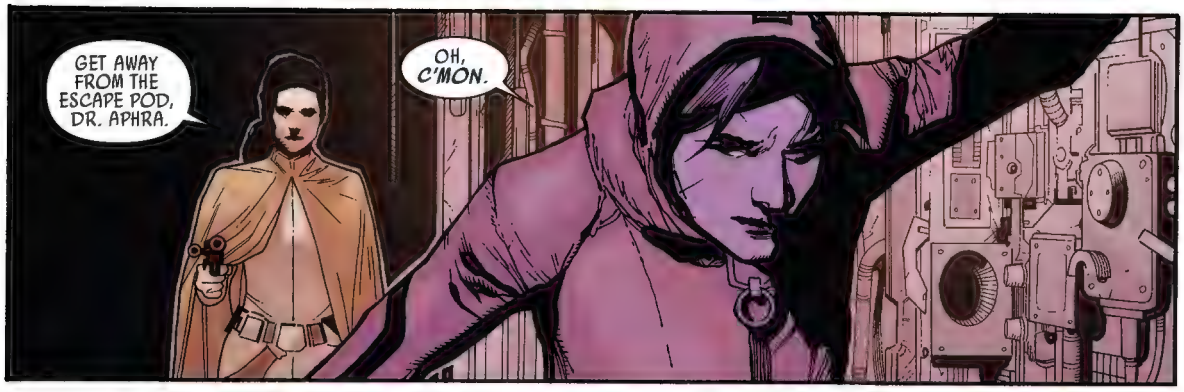
WHAAAAA!
YOU'RE A FOOL, PRINCESS. YOU SPENT YOUR LIFE IN YOUR FATHER'S CASTLE AND IN THE HALLS OF THE SENATE, SHIELDED FROM THE REALITIES OF THE GALAXY.
HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO WIN THIS WAR?
THEY BLEW UP MY FATHER'S CASTLE AND ALL OF ALDERAAN WITH IT.
BUT WE WON'T WIN THIS WAR BECAUSE OF ME.
UGGH!

HNNG!
GUGGH!
WE'LL WIN...
...BECAUSE THERE ARE MORE OF US THAN YOU CAN COUNT.
AND WE'RE ALL SICK TO DAMN DEATH OF BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO.


"PRISON SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN RESTORED.


"AND THE EVACUATION HAS BEGUN."

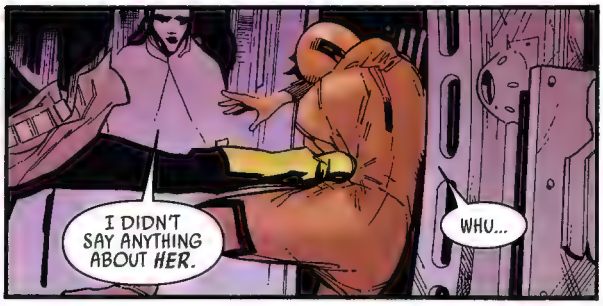
THANKS TO YOU, PRINCESS... THERE ARE STILL *SOME* OF US LEFT TO EVACUATE.
BUT NOT ENOUGH. TOO MANY PEOPLE DIED HERE TODAY, WARDEN. GUARDS AND PRISONERS BOTH.
YES, PRINCESS. WE'RE DOING OUR BEST TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL OF THE REMAINING INMATES. BUT, AH...
I'M AFRAID THERE IS *ONE* THAT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN MISPLACED.


GET AWAY FROM THE ESCAPE POD, DR. APHRA.
OH, C'MON.

I SAVED YOUR LIFE LIKE FIVE TIMES TODAY! WAY MORE IF YOU COUNT ALL THE TIMES I DIDN'T KILL YOU WHEN I REALLY WANTED TO.
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A PRISONER HERE. I CAN'T JUST LET YOU WALK AWAY.
UM, YES, YOU DEFINITELY COULD.

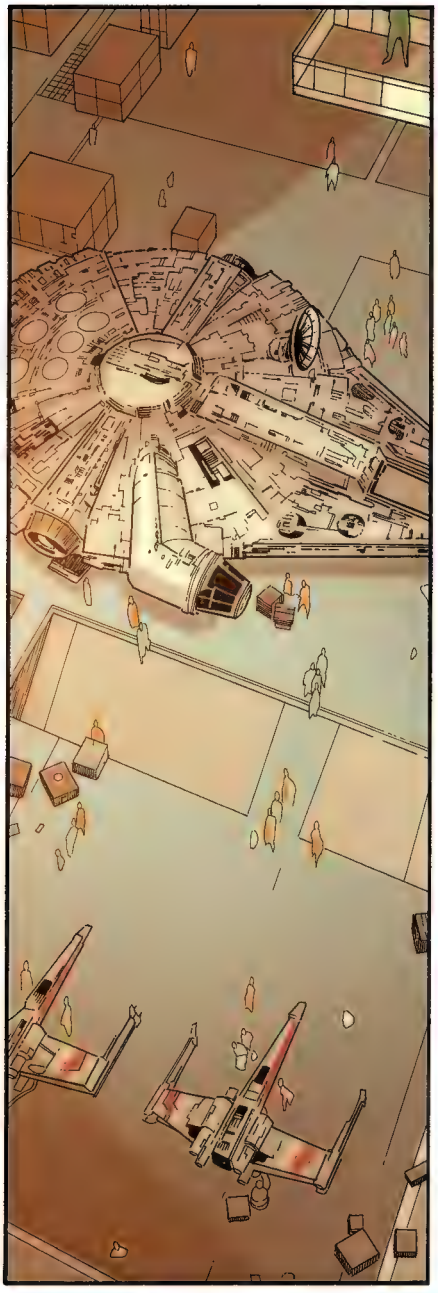
WHAT IF I PROMISE TO BE GOOD? OR...YOU KNOW... AT LEAST BETTER THAN USUAL?
THIS IS NO GAME, DOCTOR. I HOPE YOU REALIZE JUST HOW DANGEROUS DARTH VADER REALLY IS.
NO MATTER HOW USEFUL YOU ARE TO HIM NOW, SOONER OR LATER HE WILL GET AROUND TO KILLING YOU.

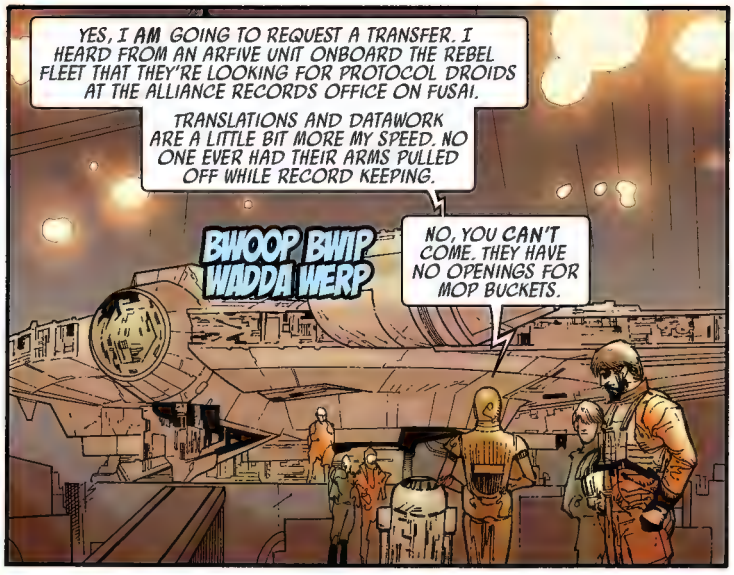
AND WHEN THAT DAY COMES, IF YOU SHOULD HAPPEN TO SOMEHOW SURVIVE...
...I SUGGEST YOU LOOK ME UP.
WAIT, BUT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I SAID I COULDN'T LET YOU WALK AWAY.


I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HER.
WHU...

ESCAPE POD ACTIVATED.
AND DON'T EVER COME BACK.
HOW LONG BEFORE SHE FINDS ALL THE TRACKERS WE HID IN HER CLOTHES?
ABOUT AS LONG AS IT'LL TAKE US TO FIND THE ONES SHE HID ON OUR SHIP.

SO I SUPPOSE ALL OF THIS IS REALLY GONNA COST ME EXTRA, HUH?
YOU KNOW WHAT?
LET'S CALL IT EVEN.
EVEN IS GOOD. I LIKE EVEN. BUT HOW ABOUT--
DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK, PRINCESS.
YES, MA'AM.
SO...YOU AND HER, YOU USED TO BE--
DON'T. DON'T ASK.
I'M NOT ASKING, I'M JUST--
DON'T JUST. DON'T ANYTHING.
OKAY.




YES, I AM GOING TO REQUEST A TRANSFER. I HEARD FROM AN ARFIVE UNIT ONBOARD THE REBEL FLEET THAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR PROTOCOL DROIDS AT THE ALLIANCE RECORDS OFFICE ON FUSAI.
TRANSLATIONS AND DATAWORK ARE A LITTLE BIT MORE MY SPEED. NO ONE EVER HAD THEIR ARMS PULLED OFF WHILE RECORD KEEPING.
BWOOP BWIP WADDA WERP
NO, YOU CAN'T COME. THEY HAVE NO OPENINGS FOR MOP BUCKETS.

THAT WAS NOT OUR BEST RESCUE. WE JUST MIGHT BE WORSE AT RESCUES THAN WE ARE AT SMUGGLING, HAN.
REMEMBER, LUKE, NOT A WORD TO ANYONE ABOUT THE...YOU KNOW.
THE WHAT?
EXACTLY.

YOU TWO ARE TERRIBLE AT RESCUES.
NICE TO SEE YOU TOO, SANA. HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU AND LEIA ARE REALLY STARTING TO--
I GOT TO FLY THE FALCON!
HAN, TELL THIS KID HE'S NOT OLD ENOUGH TO TALK TO ME.

MOTHER OF MOONS...
IT SMELLS LIKE A HERD OF NERFS IN HERE!

I WANT YOU TO KNOW...I WON'T GIVE UP ON YOU.
I'LL GET YOU THE HELP YOU NEED, ENEB. WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT.
HEH.
YOU CAN'T EVEN HELP YOURSELF, PRINCESS.
BUT SOMEDAY... YOU'LL WISH YOU'D LISTENED TO ME.
SOMEDAY.

"SOMEDAY YOU'LL REALIZE WHAT IT IS YOU'RE REALLY FIGHTING.
"AND HOW YOU HAVE NO HOPE OF ACTUALLY WINNING.
"YOU'LL REALIZE... ONLY BECAUSE THEY'VE COME FOR YOU.
"WITH A FORCE AND A FURY YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO IMAGINE.
"*REMEMBER* ME ON THAT DAY, PRINCESS.
"REMEMBER ME IN YOUR *SCREAMS*."

DAYS LATER...

THIS WAS IT, ALL RIGHT. THIS WAS THE PRISON WHERE THEY WERE KEEPING KOLAR LUDD. I'D BET MY FAVORITE BLASTER ON IT.
BUT THEY'VE STRIPPED THE PLACE CLEAN. LEFT IT TO FALL INTO THE STAR.

WE'RE BACK TO SQUARE ONE.
SARGE? YOU HEAR ME?

DOESN'T MATTER.
ORDERS JUST CAME IN.
WE'VE GOT A NEW MISSION.

WHO'S READY TO KILL SOME REBELS?

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NEXT ISSUE: